co-operative societies of handloom weavers and other organizations with regard to providing more concessions during the last five years as on date;

(b) the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the details of the concessions being provided to the handloom weavers at present; and

(d) the number of handloom weavers benefited by these concessions in the backward areas till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) No such data regarding number of representations received by Government from the co-operative societies of handloom weavers and other organizations with regard to providing more concessions is maintained at the Central level. However, for the development of Handloom Sector and welfare of handloom weavers, the Government of India is implementing five schemes during the 11th Five Year Plan, which are:

(i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme;

(ii) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme;

(iii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme;

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme; and

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

(d) No Such data regarding handloom weavers benefited by these concessions in the backward areas is maintained at the Central level.

Objectives of Catalytic Development Programme

196. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) proposed in the Eleventh Plan to promote silk industry in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has asked the States to submit proposals under CDP; and

(c) if so, the details of the States that have submitted their proposals and action that has been taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Catalytic Development Programme is unique and effective tool for transfer of technologies in the field evolved by the Research Institutes and is being implemented by Central Silk Board (CSB) through the respective State Departments. The objectives of the programme are to enhance the production of raw silk through vertical and horizontal expansion of sericulture especially Mulberry bivoltine silk and Vanya silks, to create greater opportunities for gainful employment in rural and backward areas especially for women and other marginalized sections of the society, to produce high quality silk of international grade for import substitution and increasing export earnings to improve productivity and quality at all levels of production processes starting from leaf production to fabrics through technological interventions, skill up-gradation and integrated extension support, etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. CSB has requested the State departments to submit proposals under CDP for the current year 2007-08, for considering release of CSB share. The proposals received from the States were discussed during the Apex Monitoring Committee meeting held at Bangalore on 8.2.2008. As the proposals received did not contain some more details, as decided during the said meeting, the States have been requested to furnish the additional details taking into consideration the revised targets, units cost, sharing pattern etc., as approved by the Govt. of India. The revised proposals from the States of Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are received for release of CSB share during the current year 2007-08. A provision of Rs. 81.01 crores has been earmarked towards implementation of CDP in various States during the current year 2007-08, which includes Rs. 37.45 crores allotted for the North Eastern States.

Plan for revival of sick mills of NTC

197. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills in the country;

(b) the number of sick mills out of the above;

(c) whether Government has any plan to revive these sick mills of NTC; and

(d) if so, the details of such action plan to revive these NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) National Textiles Corporation (NTC) was incorporated in 1968 with the main objective of managing the affairs of 16 sick textile mills taken over by the Government. NTC took over more sick textile mills under 3 Nationlization Acts. (1974, 1986 & 1995), raising its number upto 119 mills in 1995. As per the Rehabilitation Scheme, 2002, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved revival of 53 viable mills and closure of 66 unviable mills. 65 unviable mills were closed under the Act. 2 Mills (one viable and one unviable) located in the Union Territory of Puducherry have been transferred to the Government of Puducherry. With this, NTC was left with 117 sick mills, i.e. 52 viable mills and 65 closed mills.

(c) and (d) As per the Modified Rehabilitation Scheme, 2006 approved by BIFR and Group of Ministers (GoM), out of the total 52 mills, 12 mills have been identified for further closure where there was no production activity and most of the employees opted for benefits of Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS). Out of these, 2 mills have been closed, raising the number of closed mills from 65 to 67.

Out of the remaining 40 mills, 22 mills will be modernized by NTC itself by inducting new machineries, rationalization of manpower, capital restructuring etc. Remaining 18 mills will be modernized through Joint Venture route. Private partners to run 5 of these mills have been finalized.

Economic generation through fashion designing and garmet manufacture

198. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a special project entitled "Economic Generation through Fashion Designing and Garment Manufacture" by Women Self Help Groups in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;